



Colonial Update



Shrewsbury High School Newsletter

Feb 2004

Dear Parents:

I want to take this opportunity to update you about a few high school initiatives and upcoming events:

- **The district's School Start Time (SST) Committee recommended** to the School Committee a later start of 8:00 a.m. for Shrewsbury High School students next fall. The SST Committee based its recommendation on research and a local parent and student survey that suggest a later start will afford adolescents the additional rest their bodies need to be more alert in school. Of course, a later start would mean a later dismissal at approximately 2:20 p.m. Co-curricular programs and athletics should not be adversely impacted with proper planning by the school, students, and parents.

The School Committee was pleased with the report but is concerned that the additional bus resources required to affect this change may prevent the SST Committee's recommendation from being implemented next year. Unfortunately, the budget will be extremely tight next year, forcing the School Committee to prioritize its funding plans and initiatives. The SST Committee's full report is available on the Shrewsbury Public School's website.

- **The Senior Year Study Group (SYSG) continues to meet** and research options and possibilities for the senior year of high school. The SYSG, co-chaired by guidance counselor Gracelyn Matson and comprised of teachers, counselors, parents, and students, has reviewed national studies that suggest the senior year experience could be more challenging and engaging than is presently the case. The Shrewsbury High School experience of "senioritis" suggests that a period of ennui, restlessness, and anxiety begins to surface early in the twelfth grade resulting in a level of disengagement among some students.

The SYSG also recognizes that the last year of high school is a critical transition period between childhood and adulthood. Some schools have implemented career internships, senior projects (similar to the SHS Senior Exhibition), and service opportunities for seniors to complement and strengthen their last formal year of schooling. The experiences from these schools show that seniors are more focused and enjoy an opportunity to immerse themselves in a special learning project or within the community. The SYSG will present a

preliminary report of its work to the School Committee in May.

- **Students will soon receive a copy of the new 2004-05 SHS Program of Studies (POS).** The POS details program and course opportunities for the next school year. The staff has devoted a significant amount of work preparing a Program of Studies that reflects, as our mission states, "diverse, challenging learning opportunities" for all students. Students and parents should review course offerings prior to the week of March 15th when students will select courses for the 2004-05 school year. The POS can also be viewed on the high school's website.

One of the more exciting features of the school's academic program next year will be the introduction of several four-day per week elective courses that students may select. The four-day per week courses will generally be matched with two days of physical education which will now run all year. For example, a student will take our civics course, By The People or Intercultural Foods for four days and on the other two days have PE. In some cases, a student may be able to elect a two-day per week seminar course like Senior Exhibition or Sports Nutrition. We believe we will be able to offer students more opportunities while using our teaching resources effectively. Courses that have traditionally been yearlong courses will remain so. The new four-day/two-day schedule will replace the trimester courses offered in the junior and senior year.

Please look for the upcoming Program of Studies book and additional information on the registration process during the months of February and March.

Stay warm! As always, please contact me at 508.841.8808 or dgutekanst@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gutekanst, Ed.D
Principal

The Shrewsbury High School community provides challenging, diverse learning opportunities; promotes creativity and independent thinking; and empowers students to become capable, caring, active contributors to the world in which they live.

Asian Lunar Celebration

Feb 6, 2004
SHS Commons
64 Holden Street
5:00 - 8:00 pm

The Shrewsbury High School Asian Club welcomes you to attend the first annual Asian Lunar Celebration. Come experience Asian cuisine, arts, crafts, presentations, activities, dances, and a slide show. Dinner is from 5:00 to 6:15 pm. Activities from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 students/children/senior citizens
Please make checks payable to SHS Asian Club.

Please contact Ms. DiFrancesca or Ms. Monopoli at SHS or email shsasianclub@yahoo.com for tickets and/or more information.



Black History Month

This year the Black History Month Celebration team is sponsoring a school wide art contest. The theme is Unity in Diversity which we hope will support our efforts to promote tolerance in our school community. Students in Foundations of art and Honors are creating an original piece of art work which follows this year's contest theme. There will be three winners of this year's contest and all work will be displayed at the high school during the last week of February.



JUNIOR AFTER PROM COMMITTEE

The first organizational meeting of the committee met and the party for after the prom was reviewed and discussed. Sign up sheets were available for Team Leaders and members. There are still a few openings: **Prizes, Food, and Communications/Publicity**, these committees still need Team Leaders. This is a party for after the Junior Prom that is sponsored by parents of the Junior Class. Parents from the Sophomore and Freshman classes are welcomed to help and become involved in the planning. The party is a non-alcoholic, non-drug, and non-violent environment for the Juniors and their guests after the prom. All committees need membership including the ones mentioned above as well as **Set-up/Clean-up, Entertainment, Chaperones, Security, and Decorations**.

The After Prom party is an event that has in the past been held at the Greendale Y (we are checking on other venues) from 12 midnight to 5:00 AM. There is food, entertainment, swimming, basketball, games, prizes, and movies. These activities may be expanded or changed once the Junior Class is surveyed. In order for this event to be a success for our students, we need a little time, hard work, and parents who want to have fun participating in creating an event our students will be able to relax and enjoy.

Anyone willing to volunteer please contact Sandra Johnson Weed at sajweed@townisp.com or Virginia L. Winship vlwinship@townisp.com. The next meeting of the Junior After Prom Party Committee is Monday, February 23 at 7PM in the Commons.

**DINING
DANCING**
Entertainment

Upcoming PTO Sponsored Parent Workshops:

✓ **Strategies for Getting Along with Peers and Dealing with Bullying**

Shrewsbury Middle School, Thursday 2/5 (snow date Thursday 2/23)

✓ **Sensory Integration and Its Link to Learning and Behavior**

Parker Road Preschool, Monday 2/9 (snow date Thursday 2/12)

✓ **Strategies for Effective Conferencing with Teachers**

Paton School, Wednesday 2/25 (snow date Thursday 2/26)

✓ **Strategies for Effective Conferencing with Teachers**

Beal Early Childhood Center, Monday 3/8 (snow date Tuesday 3/9)

✓ **Internet Safety and Search Strategies**

Shrewsbury High School Presentation Room, Monday 3/29

✓ **Helping My Child Become a Better Reader and Writer**

Paton School, Thursday 4/8

The workshops are held from 7-8:30PM. Look for more detailed information about these workshops in the upcoming PTO Newsletters, local cable listings, the High School WebEvent calendar and handouts that are sent home in student folders.

Make the Home-School Connection!

Riitta Bolton - Program Coordinator
rbolton@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us - 508 841 8633

FROM THE PARENT FORUM COORDINATORS

Thanks to all the parents who attended the January 22nd Parent Forum meeting. The main topic was making sure that all students are connected to SHS in one or more ways. It was a productive evening in which many great ideas were generated in small brainstorming teams.

On **March 12th**, the Parent Forum will host a **Teacher Luncheon** to show our appreciation for their dedication and hard work. If you would like to help with cooking, baking or working the event, please contact one of us.

Upcoming **PARENT FORUM MEETINGS** will be held at 7:00 pm in the Commons (SHS) on the following dates:

- March 4, 2004
- April 29, 2004

In closing, we'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable winter break.

As always, we would like to thank you for your continued support. We remain interested in hearing your ideas and concerns.

Warmly,

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Sheila Carbone: | 842-0305 |
| Lisa Easson: | 842-7133 |
| Alicia Howe: | 754-2804 |
| Karin Hutt: | 842-2392 |
| Penny McLaren: | 842-0143 |
| Sandy McManus: | 842-3153 |
| Gina Miller: | 756-6014 |
| Debbie Stefani: | 842-6168 |
| Sue Troccoli: | 845-1 |
| Marianne Upton: | 842-4175 |



Gridiron Club Update

The S.H.S. Gridiron Club supporting the S.H.S. Colonials Football team meets monthly all year and more frequently during the season. Watch Channel 15 and 34 for meeting time and place. At the February meeting, nominations will be accepted for new officers to be elected in March. E-mail or call your confidential nomination for yourself or anyone you think would be a benefit to the Club for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. Contact Janice Holland [matimsh@townisp.com] to get e-mail updates on meetings and events or call Carl Abbascia at 842-7441. The success of the football program has a great deal to do with the Club and the work the members perform. We are in need of individuals who have the time to provide to the group. Please be a part of the fun, there's something for everyone! Thanks to 2003 Officers Jim Howe, Rene Collins, Carl Abbascia and Janice Holland for their dedication and hard work.

Good bye and good luck to our graduating seniors who left the SHS football field after the 28th game against the Milford Scarlett Hawks Thanksgiving Day 2003 as winners for the 6th year in a row. The Knights of Columbus presented trophies to game MVP Matt Holland, Offensive MVP Steve Rebh, Defensive MVP Chris Adams. The SHS Student Council presented the game winning trophy to the team captains.

Winter Sports Night recognized Drew Sears with the Ed Steffen-Tom Kenary Award for Unsung Hero, Jason Bergman with the Wayne Lundstrom Award for Outstanding Linesman and Dan Collins with the Arthur Liljegren Award for Most Dedicated & Coachable. Mid-Wach A League All Stars are Dennis Molinari and Jason Bergman. Dennis is also a T&G All Star. Jason will play in the Shrine Chowder Bowl Classic at Springfield College on June 26th, carrying on the Colonial tradition. Dennis Molinari will remain Captain until after pre-season when others will be elected to join him.

The Gridiron Club "Annual Touchdown Banquet" held at Maronis Park during the snowstorm of December 14th honored our seniors: Roy Amin, Dave Antonio, Jason Bergman (Co-Capt.), Dan Collins, Tom Conley, Tyler Cooksey, Rocky Ginisi, Matt Holland (Co-Capt.), Jim Howe (Co-Capt.), Mike McManus, Drew Sears, Dan Stockhaus, Joe Welch, Mike Zaccardo, Manager Matt Cadette and senior cheerleaders. The team also presented the coaches with autographed footballs and pictures in appreciation of their dedication throughout the years. The SPAC video production volunteer team headed up by Nick Todisco was also recognized. Watch for the 2003 season highlights on SPAC TV 33 superbowl weekend 1/31/04. Thanks for the memories! It was great fun. Many of us will still be there for the team as well as new members along the way.

VISUAL ART DEPARTMENT



The following students participated in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards:

Christopher Conroy
Devon Haddad
Anastasia Schelkin
Carolina Zelinski

Honorable Mention
Sara DeAngelis
Molly Hammond
Jennifer Singh
Amanda Sullican

Silver Key
Breana Keegan
Jennifer Singh
Amanda Sullivan

Gold Key
Joseph Geary
Meng Le
Maria Pougatcheva
Wendy Zhao



All Gold and Silver key winning works are on display in the State Transportation Building, Park Square, Boston through February. Over 70 art students participated in a field trip to view the exhibit on February 6.

The Gold key work enter the national competition in New York. Winners will be announced sometime in May.

Upcoming Calendar

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|------|---------|
| 02/06 | Asian Lunar Celebration | Com | 05:00pm |
| 02/07 | Speech & Debate-Nat'l Qualifiers | | 06:30am |
| 02/09 | Black History Rehearsal | Aud | 02:00pm |
| 02/10 | Speech & Debate Practice | SHS | 06:30pm |
| 02/10 | Solo & Ensemble Snowdate | Aud | 07:30pm |
| 02/11 | FT: JFK Library&Museum | Away | 07:00am |
| 02/11 | LaCrosse Affiliates | M136 | 06:00pm |
| 02/11 | School Committee Mtg. | TH | 07:00pm |
| 02/12 | Black History Rehearsal | Aud | 02:00pm |
| 02/12 | LaCrosse Affiliates | M136 | 06:00pm |
| 02/13 | Speech & Debate Comp. 2/13 - 2/16 | Away | 08:00am |
| 02/16 | Vacation Week - NO SCHOOL | | |
| 02/17 | Vacation Week - NO SCHOOL | | |
| 02/18 | Vacation Week - NO SCHOOL | | |
| 02/19 | Vacation Week - NO SCHOOL | | |
| 02/19 | LaCrosse Clinic | Gym | 08:00am |
| 02/20 | Vacation Week - NO SCHOOL | | |
| 02/20 | LaCrosse Clinic | Gym | 08:00am |
| 02/23 | FR: JBSG Lollipop Sale until 3/11/04 | | |
| 02/23 | Black History Rehearsal | Aud | 02:00pm |
| 02/23 | Gridiron Club Meeting | TR | 07:00pm |
| 02/24 | Speech & Debate Practice | SHS | 06:30pm |
| 02/24 | Black History Rehearsal | Aud | 02:00pm |
| 02/25 | Black History Assembly | Aud | |
| 02/25 | LaCrosse Affiliates | M136 | 06:00pm |
| 02/28 | Cheering Tournament | SHS | 07:30am |
| 02/28 | Speech & Debate Comp. | TBA | 08:00am |
| 02/29 | Cheering Tourn.-Snowdate | SHS | 07:30am |
| 02/29 | Class of 2007 Magic Show | Aud | 01:00pm |
| 03/02 | Curriculum Night | Aud | 07:00pm |
| 03/02 | SSMA | CR | 07:15pm |
| 03/02 | Speech & Debate Practice | SHS | 06:30pm |
| 03/03 | 3rd Mid-Quarter Ends | | |
| 03/03 | Freshman Math Meet | Away | 03:00pm |
| 03/03 | School Committee Mtg. | TH | 07:00pm |
| 03/04 | Parent Forum | Com | 07:00pm |
| 03/05 | NHS Coffeehouse | Com | |

Please note that dates and times are subject to change.

Aud - Auditorium Com - Commons CR-Conf. Room
PR - Presentation Room TH - Town Hall TR-Teacher's

Spirit of Shrewsbury Fall Festival Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

7 PM

Town Hall

Become a Volunteer!

Bring a Friend!



To promote your non-profit group—send a representative to the meeting.

For information on how you can volunteer for the Spirit of Shrewsbury Fall Festival, contact either Maria Smith (508-845-9974 or MMSREAL@aol.com) or Art Dobson (508-842-2826 or adobson681@aol.com).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



SHS Alumni Association

Help with projects
Share new ideas

Contact Sue at 845-6977 or sfalzoi@townisp.com

A Word from your Newsletter Coordinator:

The deadline for the January Colonial Update is Tuesday, February 24, 2004. Please turn in all information on time. If you have any questions regarding file formats, email me at shsupdate@aol.com

Thank you,
Jean Sullivan
Newsletter Coordinator
shsupdate@aol.com





SHS Alumni Association News

You're Invited to the Auction Dinner: April 10, 2004

Alumni, teachers, parents, students, and friends welcome!

See old faces. Give back to SHS by benefitting SHS students. Donate to the Auction Dinner, to be held this April at the new Shrewsbury High School, or attend this exciting event.

When: Saturday, April 10, 2004 at 6p.m.

Where: The new Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street

Menu: Salad, lasagna, chicken broccoli, rice, beverage, coffee, and dessert, by Creedon Catering

Tickets

Tickets: \$15 each until March 10, 2004

\$20 each after March 10, 2004 and at the door

If you mail in the following form with your payment, your tickets will be held for you at the door.

Download the Auction Ticket Form.

Go to www.shrewsburyalumni.org

You must print out this form and mail it in with your payment.

Check back for the menu and list of items that will be auctioned off.

Donations

If you own your own business, you can advertise to more than 100 potential customers by donating a gift certificate, product, or service — all tax-deductible — to the Auction.

Ideas for donations:

Art prints

Autographed pictures

Crafts

Gift certificates, products, or services from your business

Lessons (dance, music, etc.)

Memorabilia

A stay at your seasonal home

Tickets to a sporting event: Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, Celtics, Ice Cats, College sports

Where your donations go

Funds raised from our Reunion Auction, Business Network, and through our memberships enhanced by your sponsorship go toward:

The Student Grants Program. The SHS Alumni Association awards grants to SHS student groups to promote educational or charitable projects and to foster a sense of community. Since 1996, the SHS Alumni Association has awarded a total of fifty-seven grants to student groups at SHS thanks to generous contributions made through donations, memberships, and community fundraising events.

The all-new SHS Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. This fund is designed to help an at-risk student who will further his or her education with a cash scholarship, which will not affect a student's financial aid. Encourage your class to use leftover reunion funds to help a student in need.

Download the Donation Form. Go to www.shrewsburyalumni.org

You must print out this form and mail it in with your donation.

Get the free software Adobe Acrobat Reader so you can download the form in PDF format.

Other ways to give back to SHS:

Advertise on our web site. You'll receive your own business listing — including your web address and a link to your web site — in our new Business Network section for a low, affordable price. You'll receive a discount if you decide to also become a Sponsor. Both Shrewsbury and non-Shrewsbury area businesses are welcome.

Become a Sponsor. Provide SHS Alumni Association members with a discount when they show their membership cards — at no cost to you. You'll receive free publicity in our newsletters and on our web site so that you can attract more business.